

REPORT
OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
STEAM POSTAL SERVICE
OF NEW ZEALAND.

Appointed June 13th. Report brought up July 28rd, 1861.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
STEAM POSTAL SERVICE OF NEW ZEALAND.

The Committee appointed 13th of June 1861 to consider and report on the Steam Postal arrangements existing between the Australian Colonies and the several Provinces of New Zealand have carefully considered the subject referred to them, and having examined evidence upon the several matters embraced in the enquiry entrusted to them, have agreed to the following Report.

That your Committee recommend the Steam postal service to be extended and re-arranged in accordance with the Time Table appended to this report marked No. 1 as soon as circumstances will permit. This service will require one boat to run between Melbourne and Nelson via Otago, Canterbury and Wellington; and one boat between Sydney and Wellington *via* Auckland and Napier, leaving the Interprovincial service to be performed by the Airedale as at present. This service gives a monthly mileage of 8688 miles and will require five or six efficient Steamers for its proper performance. Your Committee recommend that the sum of £6,000 be placed on the Estimates as an additional subsidy to be paid to the inter-Colonial Royal Mail Company whenever they are in a position to undertake such additional service with proper and efficient Steamers. Under this arrangement it is understood that the Otago and Canterbury Provincial Governments will be released from the separate sum £3500 which they at present contribute for a separate service.

That your Committee learn from the evidence of the General Manager of the inter-Colonial Royal Mail Company, that the Company will not, under any circumstances, be in a position to undertake such a service for some time, and your Committee therefore recommend that the Steamer running from Sydney to Nelson as at present, be placed on the line from Sydney to Wellington, *via* Auckland and Napier, (leaving the inter-Provincial service to be performed by the Airedale,) in accordance with the Time Table appended to this Report marked No. 2.

This alteration of route being strictly within the requirements of the original contract, does not involve any increase on the present subsidy, and your Committee recommend its adoption.

And your Committee further recommend that a boat be put on between Sydney, Nelson and Wellington, and *vice versa*, to run monthly, and that for this service your Committee recommend the sum of £2500 to be appropriated as subsidy.

It is understood that if the inter-Colonial Royal Mail Company run this boat through to Otago, they shall be at liberty to run the Airedale no further South than Nelson, and the Auckland boat no further South than Napier.

In reference to so much of the Time Tables hereunto annexed as provides for the arrival and departure of the Mails in the Manukau, your Committee beg to remark that the performance of this part of the contract would be greatly facilitated by a survey being made of the outside South Channel, the true course through the Channel indicated by Beacons erected upon the shore, the Channel buoyed, and sailing directions published.

Your Committee beg to call the attention of the Government to that part of the contract which authorises a survey of the vessels employed in the Mail Service, and recommend that the power of survey thereby given, be put in force.

In considering the subject of Postal Service referred to them, the state of the Passenger Traffic has been brought incidentally before your Committee, and in closing their Report, they would beg to recommend to your Honourable House, that an Act be passed for the better regulation of the Passenger Traffic by vessels frequenting the Ports of the Colony.

J. C. FIRTH,
Chairman.

House of Representatives,
23rd July, 1861.

TIME TABLE No. 1.

English Mail due in Melbourne June 12th.
 English Mail due in Sydney June 5th.

BOAT A.				BOAT B.			
Leaves ...	Melbourne ...	...	June 13th	Leaves ...	Sydney ...	...	June 16th
" ...	Bluff ...	...	" 20th	" ...	Auckland ...	...	" 26th
" ...	Otago ...	...	" 22nd	" ...	Napier ...	...	" 29th
" ...	Canterbury ...	...	" 24th	Arrives ...	Wellington ...	...	" 30th
" ...	Wellington ...	...	" 26th	Leaves ...	Wellington ...	...	July 5th
" ...	Picton ...	...	" 27th	" ...	Napier ...	...	" 7th
Arrives ...	Nelson ...	...	" 28th	" ...	Auckland ...	...	" 12th
Leaves ...	Nelson ...	...	July 5th	Arrives ...	Sydney ...	...	" 20th
" ...	Picton ...	...	" 6th				
" ...	Wellington ...	...	" 8th				
" ...	Canterbury ...	...	" 10th				
" ...	Otago ...	...	" 13th				
" ...	Bluff ...	...	" 14th				
Arrives ...	Melbourne ...	...	" 22nd				
Service taken up by Boat C.				Service continued by Boat D.			

INTER-PROVINCIAL.—“AIREDALE.”

Leaves ...	Manukau ...	...	June 24th
" ...	Taranaki ...	...	" 25th
" ...	Nelson ...	...	" 27th
" ...	Wellington ...	...	" 29th
" ...	Canterbury ...	...	July 1st
" ...	Otago ...	...	" 3rd
" ...	Canterbury ...	...	" 5th
" ...	Wellington ...	...	" 7th
" ...	Nelson ...	...	" 9th
" ...	Taranaki ...	...	" 10th
Arrives ...	Manukau ...	...	" 11th

TIME TABLE No. 2.

English Mail due in Sydney June 15th.

BOAT A.				BOAT B.	
Leaves ...	Sydney	June	15th	Leaves Sydney July 15th, and follows the same route as Boat A.	
Arrives ...	Auckland	„	22nd		
Leaves ...	Ditto	„	25th		
Arrives ...	Napier	„	27th		
Leaves ...	Ditto	„	28th		
Arrives ...	Wellington	„	29th		
	Waits till the Aire-dale brings up the Canterbury & Otago Mails, then				
Leaves ...	Wellington	July	7th		
Arrives ...	Napier	„	8th		
Leaves ...	Ditto	„	9th		
Arrives ...	Auckland	„	11th		
Leaves ...	Auckland with Nelson and Taranaki Mails	„	13th		
Arrives ...	Sydney	„	20th		

INTER-PROVINCIAL.—“AIREDALE.”

English Mail of June having arrived in Auckland June 22nd, the Taranaki and Nelson Mails to be transferred to the “Airedale” in the Manukau.

Leaves	Manukau	June	23rd
Arrives	Taranaki	„	24th
Leaves	Ditto	„	25th
Arrives	Nelson	„	26th
Leaves	Ditto	„	27th
Arrives	Wellington	„	28th
Leaves	Ditto	„	29th
	With Canterbury and Otago Mails		
Arrives	Canterbury	„	30th
Leaves	Ditto	July	1st
Arrives	Otago	„	2nd
Leaves	Ditto	„	4th
Arrives	Canterbury	„	5th
Leaves	Ditto	„	6th
Arrives	Wellington	„	7th
	Transferring Mails to Boat A.		
Leaves	Wellington	„	8th
Arrives	Nelson	„	9th
Leaves	Ditto	„	10th
Arrives	Taranaki	„	11th
Leaves	Ditto	„	12th
Arrives	Manukau... ..	„	13th

Transfers Mails to Boat A. in Auckland Harbour.